

Question on Notice

No. 154

Asked on 8 March 2011

MS SCOTT asked the Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women (MS STRUTHERS)—

QUESTION

How has the housing department in Logan been able to assist victims of recent floods in South East Queensland?

ANSWER

The Department of Communities provided Housing and Homelessness Services staff from across the south east region, including the Woodridge Housing Service Centre, to identify accommodation requirements and provide information about housing assistance options to flood affected clients.

In addition, disaster relief provisions on a range of housing assistance products were activated, including Bond Loans and Rental Grants. Special social housing policy measures, such as the suspension of rent and rent arrears, and vacancy allocations were activated for tenants and applicants.

As at 10 March 2011, the Woodridge Housing Service Centre has assisted 23 families, from various regions, with long-term social housing in the Logan area. In addition, 12 families have been assisted with Bond Loan and Rental Grant funding to secure alternative accommodation in the private sector.

The assisted families range from single adults to single and dual parent families with children and in six cases, involved refugee families from Africa, Spain and Iran.

The housing service was one of many departmental services in the Logan area which provided support on the ground to victims of the floods. In fact, 48 departmental staff from Logan were deployed to Brisbane and Ipswich to respond to the flooding event. These staff provided housing assistance, financial assistance, outreach services and coordination services to support the recovery response in these areas.

I thank the honourable Member for her strong support for the community during this major flooding event.